

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'  
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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*“If we are true Latter-day Saints we live on a plane of morality and virtue, of personal purity and of brotherly service to our fellowmen, that no other doctrine has yet lifted mortal up to.”—*

JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

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TRUE AND FALSE SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

TWO WEEKS ago to-morrow, I had the great pleasure while visiting in the Northern States Mission, of making my first visit to Kirtland, which occupies such an important place in the history of the Church, and especially the temple that is yet standing in such an excellent state of preservation. I was pleased with the appearance of the temple, and delighted with the fine condition in which it is being preserved. The interior of the building with its excellent woodwork, its beautiful windows, gives it an atmosphere of reverence and worship.

I was told by the custodian that while thousands of people visit it each year, none ever enter who do not feel impressed with the solemnity of that building. It was not the beauty of the building, however, that impressed me, but my remembrance of the things that occurred in that historic place.

I am going to read a brief statement of a vision that the Prophet Joseph Smith and his companion, Oliver Cowdery, claim to have received one week following the dedication of that temple, a temple which was built by direct commandment of the Lord to prepare a place where God could send His messengers to deliver again to man keys, powers and authorities that had been lost to the world for centuries of time. This is the record of what occurred on the morning of April 3rd, 1836, when after administering the sacrament to a group of General Authorities of the Church who had assembled, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery retired to the Melchizedek pulpit and lowered the veil.

There were three veils that entirely shut out that pulpit from the rest of the building. The old rollers that operated the veil are still there. Thus they engaged in solemn petition to the Lord, and while in prayer, the Prophet records :

The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.

We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us ; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in colour like amber.

His eyes were as a flame of fire ; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow ; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun ; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying :

I am the first and the last ; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain ; I am your advocate with the Father.

Behold, your sins are forgiven you ; you are clean before me ; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice.

Let the hearts of your brethren rejoice, and let the hearts of all my people rejoice, who have, with their might, built this house to my name.

For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here ; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.

After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us ; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us ; for Elijah the Prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said :

Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he (Elijah) should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come—

To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—

Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

#### BESTOWAL OF AUTHORITY BY HEAVENLY MESSENGERS

Prior to this, this same Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received a personal visit from John the Baptist, who laid his hands upon their heads and bestowed upon them the Aaronic Priesthood—right and authority to baptize—and under his (John's) personal ministry the first baptisms in this Church were performed. John directed the very words of the ceremony, the purpose for which the baptism was administered. He announced that he was acting under the direction of Peter, James and John, his superiors, who in due time would come and baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost, and bestow the keys of authority of the higher or Melchizedek Priesthood, even including the apostleship.

It is the testimony of these same two men that they did, about

a month after this visit of John's—not in the dreams of the night, but in broad daylight, even as the vision I have just read to you is purported to have come—receive the visit of these three apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ; and through their ministry and blessing they received the right to baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands and received the keys of the Holy Priesthood; and the pattern and plan of this Church was laid before the mind of Joseph Smith by these messengers sent of God.

That is a bold declaration. I know how difficult it is in this skeptical age to induce men to believe in these rather remarkable statements, but are they really true? You Latter-day Saints have received testimony concerning that truth.

As I stood in the pulpit two weeks ago where these marvellous things occurred, where the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, according to this testimony, actually stood among men in the flesh again—as I stood there and pondered these things over in my own heart, seeking the evidence of their genuineness and their truthfulness, I was overwhelmed with my own personal testimony concerning the divinity of these ministrations. Then I searched from an investigator's point of view for evidences that might lead to a belief that these extraordinary things did occur. I remembered that these were not the only claims that men have set up of divine manifestations of revelation, of visits of angels in this dispensation; that there have been those who followed not after us who also have claimed to have received such communications.

#### CLAIMS OF OTHERS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNICATIONS

It was not long after these remarkable manifestations occurred, and almost in the same neighbourhood, the Fox sisters began to receive alleged spiritual communications from the unseen world, and then there came those who professed to be Elijah. I visited the city north of Chicago, that John Alexander Dowie, who claimed to have divine commission, planned and built, and from which he had to flee because of the disgruntled condition of his followers. He died in Texas some years afterwards, very rich, but not supported by his followers.

I remembered the stories of others who have set up similar claims, and then I also remembered a statement that was made in an editorial in the *Portland Oregonian* some fifteen years ago, in discussing the claims of spiritualists who assert that they have received communications from Washington, from Lincoln, from Shakespeare, and from other historical characters. The editor went on to examine the alleged communications, and compared them with the utterances of these same characters while yet living among men in the flesh, and then drew very clearly and wisely the inference that if these were genuine communications

from these departed illustrious characters, heaven is not the delightful place we have thought it to be; that men's intellects must be woefully dwarfed if this is the best these men can do now they are dead. As contrasted with their utterances while alive they are feeble and inferior. Then the conclusion was reached that one of two things is true—either man's intellect is dwarfed, his judgment is reduced, his ability minimized through death, or else these are not genuine manifestations.

Now I am going to lay down a proposition by which I am willing that these alleged communications of Joseph Smith may be judged. And certainly I shall ask that all others who claim to have received spiritual manifestations be judged by that same standard. That is, I take the position which I am sure is right, for I know that when a man is dead he is not reduced in his intellect, nor in his power and capability, but rather he is enlarged in all his powers and faculties following death. This I know to be true. I know it by individual testimony and experience. What I say is the truth, and being the truth, I say that any communication purporting to have come from one who has lived upon the earth, whether he be Washington, John the Baptist, Peter, or the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, which is inferior to the utterances of the same individual while dwelling among men in the flesh, is evidence that it is not a genuine communication, but that someone has been deceived.

I am not taking the ground that there are no such things as communications between the living and the dead. On the other hand, I positively know that this is possible, and yet I also know that it is contrary to the law that governs in the spirit world, that there should be promiscuous communications between the living and the dead.

#### SPIRIT WORLD IS GOVERNED BY LAW

I remember my own good mother saying before her death, that if it were possible and consistent with the laws governing in the spirit world she would come back and visit me. She has never visited me. But why? Because of the silence of the dead there are those who come to the conclusion that death ends it all and that there is no such thing as existence following death. This I know, that there is a law governing in the spirit world that no person who is a respecter of law can come and promiscuously communicate or converse with men and women in flesh unless he does it by divine appointment and there is a reason for it. We have the law of God in this life, that it is next to the crime of committing murder when we take our own lives deliberately and knowingly, and yet it is possible for men to take their own lives and thus prematurely hurl themselves into the spirit world, unwelcomed, unprepared to go. It may be equally true that those who disregard law in the spirit world may trample upon it and

come to gratify the curious, those who are seeking merely self-gratification or sigus.

I have made some investigation of the claims of spiritualism through a period of years, and have obtained confessions from spiritualists to this effect, that the majority of alleged spiritual communications are downright frauds. On the other hand, I would not class them all as such. I am convinced that there are some communications, from this source, that are evidence that some intelligence in the spirit world has been conversing or communing with men or women in mortality. But I have discovered, too, that men and women who are dead know but very little more than those who are alive, unless they are sent with some divine commission. I have obtained confessions from those who have alleged to have received spiritual communications, that have often been lied to, that promises have been made that have not been fulfilled. There are those who justify this practice by the story that comes to us of Saul's communication with Samuel through the witch of Endor.

I see no justification, however, for men and women wasting their time in a profitless endeavour to get into communication with alleged spirits by reason of the practice of Saul. There was in ancient Israel a law that prohibited men holding the Priesthood from consorting with witches or those who peeped and muttered. Saul was encompassed by his enemies, he was in sore need of a communication from the Lord. His own unrighteous life shut him out so that he could not get in tune with, nor receive from that source, any word. In his desperation he wanted some message, and so he sought out one of those who had been condemned by the law, and when he approached her with a request that she try to call up the spirit of the Prophet Samuel, she warned him that her life was in danger if she was caught in the act. But he said, I who seek have authority, and can assure you that your life will be preserved. Having confidence in his statement, she joined in an appeal for the spirit of Samuel, and the spirit of Samuel did appear. But he did not appear by reason of the request of the witch of Endor—for I maintain that all the spiritualists put together—really have no power over the spirit of a righteous man or woman, to call him up at will. It cannot be done.

#### SAMUEL DID NOT USE THE WITCH AS A MEDIUM

Well, why did Samuel come? He came for Israel's sake, and he did not use the witch of Endor as the medium through which he conversed. He spoke directly with Saul. He brushed aside this woman who was already under condemnation, and caught Saul in the act of disobeying the law of Israel, having sought by this unlawful means to obtain information. And now, weighed in the balance, he was found wanting, and the judgment of the Lord was pronounced upon him and his household.

There is certainly in this incident nothing that would justify men or women seeking through this unlawful means to gratify their curiosity, to seek spiritual communication. I said a moment ago that only when men and women are sent under divine appointment do they come from the spirit world, and that without such appointment they do not come. It would certainly disrupt the purposes of God if there could be promiscuous communication between the living and the dead. But it is possible that there can be communications between the living and the dead.

I said I would be willing that these alleged visits of the heavenly messengers to Joseph Smith should be weighed and judged on the basis that I have just announced, namely, that spirits of the dead do not lose their intelligence, and that any utterance which is purported to come from them should be equal to the utterances which the same individuals made while in mortality. This would condemn a vast majority of all the communications that have come through spiritualism and other kindred sources.

#### "MORMONISM" UNDER EXAMINATION

But how does "Mormonism" fare under that examination? My purpose this afternoon is to weigh these evidences supporting the claims of Joseph Smith that he did receive these communications.

The promise of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Apostles who tarried at Jerusalem, that He would endow them with power from on high, was fulfilled by the manifestation of the power of the Holy Ghost which fell upon them. I think there is no Christian who would doubt for a moment that they received that marvellous visitation. The evidence is not so much in their claim as in what happened to them after this marvellous experience. These men who, heretofore, were afraid to bear witness of the Christ—some of them denied Him—they were ready to go to their fishermen's nets again—now become giants in the earth under this marvellous power that fell upon them. They stood before their enemies unafraid, proclaiming the Christ and Him crucified, and in turn went to their own death bearing witness of it. They gave expression to words of wisdom that are now quoted, and will be to the end of time. Aye, they became giants intellectually, powerful forces spiritually, and found a place high in the annals of men. They would never have reached this point, and would have scarcely been heard of, had it not been for the marvellous thing that happened to them in the visitation of this great and glorious gift, the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Evidence that they had such an experience is shown in that which came to them in their lives thereafter. Evidence that Joseph Smith received these communications is set forth in what happened to him, and in what happened to this work after these communications are alleged to have occurred.

Take, for instance, the visit of John the Baptist. Was it really

John who gave Joseph Smith information concerning baptism, for Joseph Smith was as much in ignorance as any one else concerning the true mode of baptism. In his day men were being baptized by all sorts of forms and ceremonies. The great bulk of the religious world was accepting sprinkling of water as baptism. Others insisted upon immersion. Some were receiving immersion three times, once in the name of the Father, once in the name of the Son, and once in the name of the Holy Ghost. Some were receiving it face downward; some were receiving baptism by having water poured upon their heads. And great hosts of Christians were receiving no ceremony at all. They could take it or leave it as they pleased.

#### BAPTISM FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

That was the situation of the religious world then, as it is very largely to-day. Yet here comes the greatest authority on baptism the world has, and speaks of baptism by immersion. Not twice, but once. The very words are given showing that baptism is for the remission of sins. No one was preaching such a doctrine as the doctrine which John gave, and above all that it was utterly useless to baptize unless one performed that ceremony by divine authority. The very thing that Joseph himself needed. I know that in the beginning before he received the communication from the Father and the Son, he did not know whether or not there was one on the earth with authority. The first information that he received from John was that there was not a soul in the world who had authority to perform baptism, and that no matter if the baptism be performed in a correct manner and for a correct purpose, it was null and void, except it was performed by divine authority.

This in itself, as we weigh it in the light of all that has happened—this teaching of John to Joseph Smith, the ceremony, the proper candidates for baptism, the method of baptism, and the purpose of it—squares with everything that had gone before, and there is nothing that has contradicted it nor that will contradict it. That in itself is good evidence that Joseph Smith did receive this information from one who knew as John knew.

The visit of Peter, James and John, bringing to earth again this marvellous power that fell upon the Apostles upon the day of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Ghost—has it actually occurred? You and hundreds of thousands of Latter-day Saints are my witnesses that the gifts and blessings attendant upon those who receive the gift of the Holy Ghost have been and are in this Church. Every gift has been manifested and is still being manifested to the members of the Church, giving power that would make for unity. We have gathered men of all nations from almost every land and clime and mixed them together here in these stakes and wards and have made them one people.

*(Continued on page 841)*

# THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1932

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## EDITORIAL

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

TO THE MISSIONARIES AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH MISSION :

Dear Brethren, Sisters and Friends :

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple : and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars : see that ye be not troubled : for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom : and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations ; and then shall the end come.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on the 6th day of April, 1830, and the first missionaries arrived in Great Britain on the 20th day of July, 1837. The first meeting held and the first discourses preached was on July 23rd, 1837, by President Heber C. Kimball. The restored Gospel has been preached continuously throughout the British Isles during the past ninety-five years. Multitudes, so to speak, have become members of the Church and many have gathered to the intermountain country in fulfillment of the prediction of the Prophet Joseph Smith, that the saints would be driven from their homes and become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains.

Immigration has practically ceased, and it now becomes necessary for the saints here to organize mission-wide, district-wide,



and branch-wide until every organization is completely built up and established in every branch.

Our message to you now is that each and every Latter-day Saint, male and female, young and old, be prepared to carry his or her share of responsibility, and if you will do this with prayerful hearts, the Church here will grow and increase in strength until its organization will be completely perfected. The aim of the Church will be for a time, at least, to lead out as it has heretofore done, but the responsibility, eventually, will devolve largely upon the British people.

May the blessings of our Heavenly Father be with you, that all labour you are called upon to perform will be one of joy and pleasure. Unspeakable satisfaction will come to you if you willingly accept any position to which you are assigned. We sincerely trust that the avenues of commerce may be opened up, that the coming year may not only add multiplied blessings of a spiritual nature to you, but that your temporal conditions may be improved so that spiritually, mentally and physically you may be blessed. May the New Year be a prosperous and satisfactory one to you.

Devotedly and obediently yours,

JAMES H. DOUGLAS  
RINTHA P. DOUGLAS

## TRUE AND FALSE SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS

*(Concluded from page 839)*

If the powers that came to the Latter-day Saints through the visit of Peter, James and John were to touch every Christian throughout the world we would have peace to-morrow, and universal brotherhood would come. It is utterly unthinkable that one community of Latter-day Saints would be at war with another. It would be utterly unthinkable for one nation to be at war one with another if the people of the world were in possession of the gift and power of the Holy Ghost which would make them one.

Yes, the organization of this Church, praised by its bitterest enemies, as the most complete religious organization in the world, none like it, wherein a place is found for every officer named in the Church of Christ, from apostles and prophets down to deacons. They are found in this Church, and the marvellous thing is that it is working. Where did this come from? Joseph Smith said that it is according to the information and the vision that was given to him by those who knew all about the Church of Christ—Peter, James, and John—who brought not only that divine authority, but the plan and pattern of this Church.

Here was one unlearned in the things of this world who has

established a religious organization that has become the admiration of the whole world. It must be that some superior intelligence brought it to Joseph Smith. He was not so good a guesser that he could read the scriptures and then produce an institution of this character.

Is it true that Elijah the Prophet did come, according to the prediction of Malachi that he would come? Let me say to you that if Elijah has not come, he will come, or men will be wasted away and the earth shall be empty and void, for his coming shall preserve a remnant in the days of trouble that are to come. Our declaration is that Elijah the prophet did come to Joseph the Prophet in fulfillment of that ancient prediction.

We do not rest wholly upon the testimony of these two witnesses, but again we recite what has happened in fulfillment of this visitation. In 1836 there was not in the world what is known as a Genealogical society. When this manifestation occurred, and immediately thereafter, the spirit of Elijah that turned the hearts of the fathers in the spirit world to their children upon the earth, and the hearts of the children upon the earth to their fathers in the spirit world, began to appear. Genealogical societies began to appear even outside of the circles of the Latter-day Saints, for this spirit, the spirit of Elijah, was poured out upon and touched all flesh, until to-day millions of pounds have been expended, hundreds of Genealogical societies have been established all over the world, and men's hearts have been turned to their fathers who long have been in the spirit world.

I myself have conversed with men who have spent vast sums of money gathering the histories of their families, and then when the work is done they cannot understand why they did it. There are Latter-day Saints within the sound of my voice who will bear witness with me that they have been the recipients of some of this research work. When the work has been performed it has fallen into their hands, and they knew why. That magnificent temple which stands upon this block and the other temples that have been erected in the poverty of the people at great cost, they have been produced because Elijah did come, because he restored the keys for the salvation of the living and the dead and their exaltation in the very presence of God. We have given evidence that we believe in it. In the world we see evidence that his spirit, the spirit that has turned the hearts of the fathers to the children, is at work; so that we submit it is certainly entitled to consideration that there did an unusual thing occur that has produced a very unusual situation that never in the history of the world, so far as we know, has been manifested before, in the great genealogical movement that is operating in practically all the civilized nations of the world to-day.

Did Moses actually appear? Was that a visitation of the great

prophet of ancient Israel who came to deliver the keys of the gathering of Israel? Amos the prophet, before the dispersion of Israel, predicted that one branch of the House of Israel would be sifted among the nations of the earth and the other branch would be scattered; that the scattered branch that would preserve its identity—referring particularly to the Jewish nation—would become a hiss and a byword, and yet they would be gathered. The branch that would be sifted and mingled with the blood of the Gentiles would be gathered, one of a city and two of a family, in a latter day when the spirit of gathering would fall upon the people.

Do you think that any power that is with man could have produced the miracle of this gathering of modern Israel?

Again, I say, let the evidence be found not only in the statement of these witnesses but in the utterances that came from the Lord Jesus Christ. I take second place to no man or woman in the world in my regard for the scriptures. I value them highly, and the only regret I have is that we have so few of the words of Jesus Christ. And yet with all that deference and respect for these words of the Master, as found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I stand here to say to you that it is no discredit nor reflection upon the Lord Jesus Christ to give Him credit for the seventy-sixth section of the book of Doctrine and Covenants; for the eighty-eighth section; for the twentieth section; and I could name others. I say they contain the grandest utterances that have ever fallen from inspired lips, even from the lips of the Master Himself. Nothing in that sacred history has the breadth, the depth, the height, and the understanding of the seventy-sixth section of the book of Doctrine and Covenants, being a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to Joseph Smith, that provides for the salvation of the entire human family and for the exaltation of those who obey the fulness of those Gospel requirements. I submit them, I say, as evidence that a wisdom beyond the wisdom of man, inspired them, and it would not reflect against the Lord Jesus to give Him credit for these things. Indeed it would add to His glory and to His power to say that these are His words. They are not the feeble doggerel of a man.

I confess to you as a student of Joseph Smith's history that I have read all that the Church has on the subject. I have read his private journals, and as he goes on talking about the ordinary course of events, commenting upon same, and then comes to one of these revelations, he himself is lifted beyond himself; it is not the language of Joseph Smith, it is an inspired utterance, evidence that there was a power that came upon him beyond the power of man.

Yes, we bear witness that the evidences are abundant to the

reasonable thinking man, that Joseph Smith did receive such communications as these, for the results are manifest in the things that have happened, and I bear witness of the truthfulness of it. Personally I know that these things are true.

May we prepare for even more glorious things than these that the prophet witnessed, wherein we may be participators, for that day will come. God speed it on and prepare us for more glorious things than have ever occurred in the history of this people, that lie in the future, when the veil shall become so thin between heaven and earth that we shall meet and converse with them, and they shall join us in that song which the prophet said shall be sung, that Zion from above shall be brought down to meet the Zion that is set up upon the earth; when they shall mingle together in the Millennium, under the reign of Christ, in the fulfillment of the perfection of all the Father's great plan for the redemption and salvation of all of His children, and for the redemption of the earth itself. This has to do with the greatest things that ever have occurred or ever will occur in the history of this world, and they are true, thank God!

I pray that we may believe it, that the world may believe it and be participators with us in the glorious privileges and blessings that come out of it, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.—(Address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 20th, 1932.)

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### AN ANSWERED PRAYER

ZELLA MOORHEAD, LONDON DISTRICT

OWING to the scarcity of members we had been without a meeting house in Luton, Bedfordshire, for nearly seven years. I often prayed that the way might be opened up whereby we would again have the opportunity of assembling together. Oh! how I prayed that the people of Luton might have another chance to hear the word of the Lord. If ever sincere supplications were offered, it was at that time. And in return I promised the Lord I would try and do everything in my power to help make the work a success.

It was amazing how wonderfully my prayer was answered. In just a few months seven missionaries were assigned to Luton to conduct an extensive campaign. At last a hall was secured and a crowd of interested friends began attending our Sunday night meetings. Later a Sunday School and an M. I. A. were organized.

Though some of the insincere investigators ultimately dropped off, still the members rallied together and the branch remains today a growing concern. In three years nine persons have joined

our ranks and a number of our friends are very much interested in the Gospel. My heart fills with gratitude to my Heavenly Father for the answer He granted to my humble prayer, and for His goodness and mercy to the people of Luton, who are once more hearing the latter-day message from His chosen servants.

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### SCOTTISH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

AN intelligent faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, its power to solve the problems now confronting the world, and the value of applying its saving principles to individual conduct, were truths emphasized at the Glasgow District Conference, November 27th, in Abbotsford Place, Glasgow.

The morning session consisted of opening exercises, after which the brethren and sisters separated for instructions. Words of encouragement and counsel were given to the Priesthood by President Douglas and Patriarch Wallis, while the sisters received advice from Sister Douglas.

The report given by President Leonard N. Giles in the afternoon session showed that the travelling Elders had spent 14,623 hours in active missionary work during the past six months, 1,245 hours of this time were spent in tracting from door to door and in distributing the sum of 30,782 tracts. Other items reported favourably were: 54 copies of the Book of Mormon distributed, other books and pamphlets circulated amounted to 12,067. The remainder of the afternoon was taken up by the local members, who gave talks on the value of the auxiliary organizations and the accomplishments of each during the past year.

In the evening Sister Rintia P. Douglas bore her testimony to the truth of the Gospel, after which President James H. Douglas and Patriarch James H. Wallis delivered inspiring discourses.

Missionaries and authorities in attendance were: Patriarch James H. Wallis of the European Mission; President and Sister James H. Douglas and Elder Percy L. Matthews of the British Mission; President Leonard N. Giles, Elders John S. Russell, Owen S. Leishman, John E. Owens, Woodrow C. Williams and Howard M. Cullimore of the Scottish District; President Elmo H. Lund and Elder W. Fletcher Llewellyn of the Hull District; President E. LeRoy Anderson and Elder George H. Curtis of the Ulster District, and President Sylvan E. Needham, Jr., of the Newcastle District.

JOHN S. RUSSELL, Clerk of Conference.

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CONDUCT is the great profession. Behaviour is the perpetual revealing of us. What a man *does* tells us what he *is*.

## CHURCH WIDE NEWS

ELDER GEORGE E. CARPENTER, former city editor of *The Deseret News*, a prominent Church and business leader, and a native of London, England, died November 26th, of appoplexy, at his home in Glendale, California. He was associate editor of the *Millennial Star* in 1898.

DURING a period of ninety years, the number of baptisms performed in the temples of the Church for the dead has increased from a hundred to nearly eight millions. This essential doctrine was introduced by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the year 1841, when the ordinance was first performed in the Mississippi River until the erection of the Nauvoo Temple.

GREAT success attended the efforts of the Eastern States mission as a result of a Church exhibit which had been displayed at five of the large eastern state fairs. The grand total of visitors at these fairs exceeded three quarters of a million; 63,400 pamphlets and tracts were distributed, 51 copies of the Book of Mormon were sold, and more than 2,000 Gospel conversations engaged in.

CONDITIONS in Spain are favourable for the introduction of the Gospel, according to a report recently submitted to President John A. Widtsoe by Elder Garland F. Smith, who has spent the past ten months investigating conditions in that country. New constitutional laws allow absolute religious freedom and provide opportunities for holding meetings in homes, streets and meeting houses.

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## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Transfers:** Elder Eugene A. Hooper was transferred from the Manchester to the Liverpool District; Elder Thomas S. Harris from the Liverpool to the Manchester District, and Elder Raphael C. Palfreyman from the Leeds to the Sheffield District.

**Appointments:** Elder Delwin M. Clawson was appointed president of the Portsmouth District, December 3rd, succeeding Elder John W. Taylor.

Elder Sylvan E. Needham was appointed president of the Newcastle District on December 15th, succeeding Elder Cleon H. Kerr.

**Branch Conferences:** Of the Preston Branch, Liverpool District, November 20th. A large attendance witnessed the theme "Revelation" inspiringly developed.

Of the Pontypool Branch, Welsh District, November 20th. A splendid programme was delivered by the primary and theological classes in the afternoon session, the topic of which was "The Plan of Salvation."

**Arrivals and Assignments:** Missionaries arriving in the British Mission, November 23th, have been assigned as follows: John B. Stagg, Provo 1st Ward, Utah Stake, to the Leeds District; Heber I. Boden, 31st Ward, Liberty Stake, to the Newcastle District; Dell R. Holbrook,

Bountiful 1st Ward, South Davis Stake, to the Bristol District; Douglas R. Clawson, 20th Ward, Ensign Stake, to the Nottingham District; Elmer R. Longson, Parley's Ward, Granite Stake, to the Sheffield District; Bartlett L. Christenson, Mar Vista Ward, Hollywood Stake, to the Portsmouth District.

**Releases and Departures:** Following is a list of travelling Elders who have been honourably released from the British Mission and have returned to their homes in America: John W. Taylor of the Norwich and president of the Portsmouth District, and Elwood Corry of the Norwich and president of the Birmingham District, released December 4th and November 28th, respectively, and sailed aboard the *President Harding*, December 8th; E. Wendell Stringfellow of the Newcastle and Sheffield District, and Howard S. Widdison, released December 7th and 10th, respectively, and sailed aboard the s.s. *Manhattan*, December 15th; Dallas A. Berrett of the Hull and Bristol Districts, and Cleon H. Kerr of the Norwich and President of the Newcastle Districts, released December 7th and 15th, respectively, and will sail aboard the s.s. *Leviathan*, January 20th; C. Leigh Miller of the Newcastle, Liverpool and Birmingham Districts, released December 7th, and sailed aboard the *President Roosevelt*, December 22nd.

**Doings in the Districts:** *Leeds*—More than fifty people attended a social given in honour of President Frank J. Mozley, who has been released from his missionary labours. Many well-prepared novelty numbers constituted an enjoyable programme. The spirit of the affair was dulled, however, by the sudden death of Sister Sarah Ann Burton from an heart attack as she entered the hall.

Short dialogues and an interesting one-act play were presented at a concert party given November 26th, by the primary children of the Bradford Branch.

Contest dances and refreshments featured a social held December 3rd, in the Clayton Branch hall.

*Manchester*—Baptism and confirmation of four people took place November 12th. The same day a Union meeting was held in which the new District President, Elder Louis G. Robinson, was sustained. President Martin R. Braithwaite, the outgoing president, was feted at a farewell social immediately following the Union meeting, at which more than one hundred people attended.

*Hull*—Eighty-five people were in attendance at a highly successful dance held in the Grimsby Branch hall, November 25th.

Gainsboro' Branch Sunday School held a successful social December 9th, at which thirty-five members and friends were in attendance. Refreshments and games contributed to the enjoyment of the party.

*Liverpool*—Four candidates were baptized at "Durham House," November 5th, by Elders Elmo H. Ellsworth and Franklin S. Harris, Jr.

Blackburn and Preston Branch Relief Societies both sponsored a "Sale of Work" November 26th and December 3rd, respectively. Proceeds from the former amounted to over £7.

*Welsh*—Members and friends crowded the Merthyr Tydfil Branch hall October 27th, for a social and dance sponsored by the M. I. A.

## MURMUR NOT

MURMUR not, although the sunshine  
 May not light thy path of care ;  
 Murmur not, but know that always  
 Gloomy clouds are " here and there."  
 Murmur not, for clouds will scatter  
 Rain upon the thirsty soil,  
 And without these blessings, labour  
 Would be vain, with all thy toil.

Murmur not, but work with patience,  
 Soon the gloom will pass away ;  
 Murmur not, and soon the sunshine  
 On thy path will shed a ray ;  
 Murmur not, though gloomy shadows  
 Load thy weary heart with care,  
 But remember that forever  
 'There is sunshine " here and there."

Murmur not, but work with willing  
 Hands and heart and steady brain ;  
 Murmur not, but fight to conquer  
 On life's hard-trod battle plain.  
 Murmur not, though on life's journey  
 You must pass o'er rugged hills ;  
 Murmur not ; the only pleasant  
 Murmur comes from brooks and rills.

S. C. WATSON

## DEATHS

CARR—Sister Louisa Fieldhouse Carr, aged forty-four, passed away October 23rd. Funeral services took place at Billingham-on-Tees.

NURSE—Sister Beatrice Mary Nurse of the Grimsby Branch, Hull District, died December 2nd. Funeral services and dedicatory prayer were conducted by President Elmo H. Lund.

TAYLOR—Sister Mary Taylor, an ardent worker of the Accrington Branch, Liverpool District, died at the age of forty-five. Interment occurred May 2nd, in the Burnley Road Cemetery.

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